



BLM NEWS RELEASE

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Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Coming to the Boise Wild Horse Corrals

BOISE, ID – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will offer wild horses for adoption from both the Four Mile (north of Emmett) and Sands Basin (southwest of Marsing) Herd Management Areas at the BLM Wild Horse Corrals in Boise, April 23 - 25, 2010. For the first time since 2007, Idaho BLM will also offer 20 wild burros for adoption, which is a popular addition for potential adopters.

Beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, all wild horses and burros will be offered for adoption by an oral bidding process, with the bids beginning at \$125. After the oral bidding has ended, adoptions will continue on a first-come, first-served basis, and adopters may choose a buddy horse for \$25, after a horse has been adopted for \$125. Being offered for adoption are 16 geldings ages one to four, 13 mares ages one to four, four mare/foal pairs and 23 yearlings. Seven weanling about eight months old and one two year-old mare will have been worked with and gentled prior to the adoption. The horses range in color from palomino, gray, sorrel, bay, pinto and roan.

Additionally, BLM is offering free wild horse gentling demonstrations Friday and Saturday. The featured clinician is Mario Johnson, a horse trainer from Georgetown, Idaho, who won the Wyoming Extreme Mustang Makeover in 2009. All horses that are gentled during these clinics will also be offered for adoption. Johnson will be available during the adoption to answer questions.

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A number of Treasure Valley equestrians have accepted the challenge of working with older wild horses to prepare them for a potential new owner at the upcoming adoption. Much of the time, they do this at their own expense, out of their love for the wild horse. “Working with a wild horse is so rewarding; it definitely takes time and patience,” said Becky McPheters of Nampa. “I think the one I’ve been working with will make a great partner for someone.” Named ‘Diamond Lil’ for the white diamond marking on her forehead, the two year-old sorrel mare has been friendly and willing throughout her training process.

“The older mustangs are more challenging to work with,” said McPheters. “But after the first 30 days in their new environment, it’s like the light bulb switches on, and they trust you. This is when the training really begins to progress.”

Shannon and Scott Janson of Kuna have also worked with several two- and three-year-old wild horses. They pick them up about four weeks prior to an adoption and get them as far along as possible within that timeframe. “Each horse progresses through their training differently,” said Shannon. “One gelding we worked with was very quiet and quickly became accustomed to domestic life. He adapted to being led, tied to the hitching rail, saddled, bridled and loaded onto the horse trailer. Getting into a round pen with a completely wild horse is an amazing experience.”

Treasure Valley 4-H members who have worked with the younger wild horse weanlings will also have an opportunity to showcase their efforts during the 4-H in-hand trail challenge that will take place on Friday and Saturday. This event begins at 5:00 p.m. on Friday. Following is the adoption schedule for the weekend at the Boise BLM Wild Horse Corrals:

Friday, April 23: Corrals open for viewing, 1:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Preview and Gentling Demonstration, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 - 6:30p.m.
4-H In-Hand Trail Challenge, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 24: Corrals open for viewing, 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
4-H In-Hand Trail Challenge, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Gentling Demonstration, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.; 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Oral bid adoption on all horses and burros, 10:30 a.m. Once bids are awarded, first-come, first-served until 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 25: Adoption, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., first-come, first-served

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To adopt a wild horse, you must be 18 years of age, never have been convicted of animal abuse or cruelty and have the proper facilities and transportation. Animals are to be transported the day they are adopted. No animal will be loaded in an unsafe trailer. All individuals must be pre-approved before they can bid on a horse. Applications may be filled out at the adoption and approved onsite.

For those who do not have a way of transporting their newly adopted wild horse or burro, the BLM will provide local delivery within a 50-mile radius for those who do not have a way of transporting their newly adopted animal. (Special restrictions do apply.) If adopters do have means of transporting horses, the BLM suggests using stock trailers with side-swinging gates. Trailers with loading ramps will not be allowed, and trailers with dividers are acceptable, but the dividers must be removed before horses can be transported in the trailer. **The BLM will not allow adopted horses to be transported in two-horse trailers.**

“All horses available for adoption have been de-wormed and have received vaccinations for common equine conditions and diseases,” according to Steve Leonard, Boise District BLM wild horse specialist. “Adopters will receive complete health care records, as well as herd management and other equine information for their newly adopted animals.”

Following are directions to the Boise BLM Wild Horse Corrals: From I-84, exit on Orchard Street (Exit 52) and go south for approximately 1.7 miles, which turns into West Gowen Road. Continue for 0.5 mile. Turn right (south) on Pleasant Valley Road and go approximately 4 miles. Turn right at the “Wild Horse Corrals.”

For more information on the Wild Horse and Burro Program and requirements for adoption, call 1-866-MUSTANGS, or visit www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov.